

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. PARTI QUEBECOIS REASSURING UNCLE

CONSUL GENERAL MCNAMARA PAID HIS FIRST CALL ON THE NEW
QUEBEC MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, CLAUDE
MORIN, YESTERDAY. DURING THEIR DISCUSSION MORIN SAID:

--THE PARTI QUEBECOIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT MADE UP OF
RADICALS AND WISHES TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS IN
THE NORTH AMERICAN TRADITION.

--LEVESQUE AND THE GOQ WANT THE USG TO UNDERSTAND
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THAT THE PQ IS NOT NEUTRALIST AND PLANS TO DEFINE

A DEFENSE POLICY ACCEPTING THE FACT THAT "PACIFICISM IS IMPOSSIBLE" IN THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTEXT.

--WHILE POLITICAL SOVEREIGNTY REMAINS BASIC TO THE PQ PROGRAM, HIS GOVERNMENT WILL FUNCTION WITHIN THE EXISTING CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT UNTIL CHANGES ARE MADE IN AN ORDERLY, DEMOCRATIC MANNER.

--PQ PLANS FOR AN INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM ARE STILL VAGUE AND MAY REQUIRE TWO YEARS OR LONGER.

--TWO FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL CONFERENCES WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WILL HELP ORIENT PQ STRATEGY.

--LEVESQUE WILL TRY TO AVOID BEING MANEUVERED BY TRUDEAU INTO A PREMATURE CONFRONTATION.

CONGEN COMMENT: MORIN AND LEVESQUE ARE ANXIOUS THAT THE USG NOT VIEW THE PQ AS A DISRUPTIVE FORCE INIMICAL TO AMERICAN INTERESTS. MORIN'S REMARKS ON DEFENSE POLICY WERE A CLEAR EFFORT TO REASSURE THE US THAT AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC WILL VIEW CONTINENTAL DEFENSE REALISTICALLY AND WILL RECOGNIZE LEGITIMATE US CONCERNS. (CONFIDENTIAL) QUEBEC 372, 12/3.)

2. FORLANI BACKS OUT OF ANDREOTTI'S WASHINGTON TRIP

THE ITALIAN MFA HAS CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI WILL NOT ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI ON HIS WASHINGTON TRIP. THE REASON, ACCORDING TO MFA UNDER SECRETARY RADI, IS THAT FORLANI MUST ATTEND A CHAMBER DEBATE ON RATIFICATION OF THE OSIMO TREATY SETTING THE ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV BOUNDARY, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 6-8.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION, WE HAVE HEARD THAT FORLANI, WHO HAS RECENTLY ENTERED THE DC POLITICAL FRAY, MAY WISH TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND ANDREOTTI BEFORE THE DC NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION ON DECEMBER 10. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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ROME 19760, 12/3.)

3. A YOUNG CONSERVATIVE STIRS ITALIAN POLITICS

EMBASSY ROME REPORTS THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT (DC) LEADERS AND THE ITALIAN MEDIA HAVE SPENT THE LAST WEEK ATTACKING MASSIMO DE CAROLIS, MILAN'S YOUNG DC LEADER WHO HAS BECOME THAT PARTY'S LEADING EXPONENT OF COMBATIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM

AND ECONOMIC CONSERVATISM. THE CLAMOR RESULTED FROM AN INTEMPERATE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW IN WHICH DE CAROLIS SEEMED TO ADVOCATE A HARSH AND POSSIBLY VIOLENT CONFRONTATION WITH THE PCI IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE SUGGEST THAT THE EXAGGERATED PARTY AND MEDIA REACTION IS INDICATIVE OF AN INCREASINGLY INTOLERANT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE THAT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR ANYONE WHO CLEARLY IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS RIGHT OF CENTER. SINCE THERE ARE FEWER AND FEWER VOICES FOR UNAMBIGUOUS POLITICAL CHOICES, IT IS A PITY THAT DE CAROLIS SHOULD PLAY INTO THE

HANDS OF HIS DETRACTORS BY CLOAKING HIS MESSAGE IN TERMS THAT SUGGEST THE LEGITIMACY OF VIOLENCE. (CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 19685, 12/2.)

4. EC SUMMIT: VIEW FROM THE HAGUE

EMBASSY THE HAGUE REPORTS THAT THE DUTCH MOOD AFTER THE RECENT EC SUMMIT IS ONE OF DISAPPOINTMENT WITH WHAT WAS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO HAVE BEEN AN UNPRODUCTIVE SESSION, DESPITE THE FACT THAT EXPECTATIONS HAD NOT BEEN HIGH.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE DUTCH HAVE LONG FELT THAT SUMMITS TEND TO CREATE AN IMPRESSION OF IMPENDING MOMENTOUS DECISIONS, WHEN IN FACT LITTLE CAN REALLY BE ACHIEVED. OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED THAT THE EC IS NOW REAPING THE REWARDS OF HOLDING THESE MEETINGS WITH INADEQUATE STAFFING. IT WAS ANOTHER CASE OF BUSY MEN TRYING TO DO TOO MANY THINGS TOO QUICKLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) THE HAGUE 6691, 12/3.)

5. ARAFAT'S THOUGHTS BEFORE VISIT TO BELGRADE

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EMBASSY CAIRO WAS INFORMED BY YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR PAPIC THAT HE MET BRIEFLY WITH ARAFAT IN CAIRO A FEW DAYS AGO. PAPIC SAID ARAFAT, WHO WILL VISIT BELGRADE NEXT WEEK:

--DISPLAYED DEEP PREOCCUPATION WITH THE HAMSTRUNG PALESTINIAN POSITION RESULTING FROM THE RIYADH/CAIRO CONFERENCE;

--COMPLAINED THAT ARAB STATES ARE DESERTING THE PALESTINIANS;

--EXPRESSED DISTRUST OF ASAD'S INTENTIONS; AND

--ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME CHANGES IN THE TOP PLO LEAD-

ERSHIP WILL BE NECESSARY, I.E. SOME WEST BANKERS AND
GAZANS MUST BE BROUGHT IN. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO
16697, 12/2.)

6. SUDANESE APPROACH QADHAFI VIA PLO?

AN ARAB DIPLOMAT HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR BREWER IN KHAR-
TOUM THAT THE LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE, ABUL KHEIR, CLAIMS
THE GOS IS SEEKING TO IMPROVE CONTACTS WITH LIBYA VIA THE
PLO. ALTHOUGH NIMEIRI WAS OPENLY CRITICAL OF LIBYA IN AN
OCTOBER 31 PRESS CONFERENCE, KHEIR CLAIMS HE WAS SUMMONED

BY FOREIGN MINISTER MAKKAWI ABOUT A WEEK LATER TO RECEIVE
A REQUEST FOR ARAFAT'S MEDIATION IN THE SUDANESE/LIBYAN
DISPUTE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE DOUBT NIMEIRI WOULD BE INTERESTED IN
INITIATING OVERTURES TO QADHAFI UNLESS KHALID OR SADAT
WERE PRESSING HIM TO DO SO. ALTHOUGH KHEIR WAS ACCURATELY
QUOTED, HE MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED THE PLO'S ROLE. (SECRET)
KHARTOUM 3538, 12/1.)

7. JAPAN: LDP LIKELY TO MUDDLE THROUGH

RECENT OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT THE RULING LIBERAL DEM-
OCRATIC PARTY WILL LOSE SOME SEATS IN SUNDAY'S NATIONAL
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ELECTION BUT WILL MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE MAJORITY. EMBASSY
TOKYO NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THE LOSS OF SEATS WILL MAKE IT
MORE DIFFICULT FOR PRIME MINISTER MIKI TO KEEP HIS POSI-
TION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT THE ELECTION
RESULT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT NEAR-TERM IMPACT ON GOJ
POLICIES OF INTEREST TO THE US. WHOEVER EMERGES VICTORI-
OUS FROM THE LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE WILL BE KEENLY AWARE
OF THE IMPORTANCE OF US-JAPAN RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL)
TOKYO 17764, 12/2.) KISSINGER

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